

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03 H-02

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R 150824 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4605

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 7544

E. O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: JNR FARE INCREASE BILL PASSED BY LOWER HOUSE
JUNE 14

1. LOWER HOUSE PASSED CONTROVERSIAL MAJOR BILL TO IN-
CREASE JAPAN NATIONAL RAILWAY FARES AND SENT IT TO
UPPER HOUSE AFTERNOON JUNE 14.

2. IN VOTING AGAINST BILL OPPOSITION PARTY SPOKESMEN
ALL ARGUED THAT 23.2 PERCENT INCREASE IN JNR PASSENGER
FARES WOULD SPUR FURTHER INFLATION AT TIME WHEN PUBLIC
ALREADY DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT RAPID RISE IN COST OF
LIVING. BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR 24.1 PERCENT INCREASE
IN JNR FREIGHT RATES.

3. NOTING THAT JNR PASSENGER REVENUES ARE IN BLACK AND
THAT ONLY FREIGHT REVENUES IN RED, MASARU UMEDA (JCP)
ARGUED THAT INCREASE OF PASSENGER FARES SACRIFICES
INTEREST OF PEOPLE TO MAINTAIN LOW FREIGHT RATES AS
CONTINUED SERVICE TO BIG BUSINESS.

4. HOWEVER, GOJ/ LDP GAINED SOME ADVANTAGE IN SUBTLE
INTERPLAY OF PARLIAMENTARY FORCES FROM MERE PRESENCE
OF OPPOSITION IN LOWER HOUSE, DESPITE VOTE AGAINST BILL, WHICH
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THEREBY ABSOLVED IT OF NEED TO PASS BILL BY FORCING UNILATERAL MAJORITY VOTE IN THEIR ABSENCE. UPPER HOUSE PRESIDENT KENZO KONO, REPORTEDLY APPRECIATIVE THAT GOJ/ LDP DID NOT DO SO, IS NOW EXPECTED TO TRY TO FACILITATE UPPER HOUSE DELIBERATIONS.

5. GOJ SCHEDULED TO EXPLAIN NEED FOR BILL IN UPPER HOUSE PLENARY SESSION JUNE 18 BUT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE NOT EXPECTED TO BEGIN DELIBERATIONS UNTIL IT COMPLETES CONSIDERATION OF PORT AND HARBOR BILL, POSSIBLY EARLY NEXT MONTH. MEANTIME, OPPOSITION PARTIES REMAIN CONFIDENT THAT THEY CAN KILL BILL BY DELAYING UPPER HOUSE DELIBERATIONS UNTIL TIME RUNS OUT ON EXTENDED DIET SESSION.
DECONTROL 7/1/74
SHOESMITH

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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30 JUN 2005

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